



Behind the Log

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Bush Search And Rescue Victoria, P O Box 1007, Templestowe Vic 3106

www.bsar.org

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BSAR appreciates the annual funding from the Department for Victorian Communities to Bushwalking Victoria, a component of which is put towards BSAR administration and training activities.



Editor of Behind the Log – Ren Millsom
Next issue May 2017 - deadline 30 April

Monbulk Search, 23 May 2016

On Monday 23rd May, twenty BSAR personnel assisted with the search of a missing person, a 47 year old female in the Monbulk area. Police and local volunteers from the SES and CFA were involved in searching for the first few days.

BSAR was called in after the fourth day to assist with searching more rugged difficult terrain including dense bush along the Sassafra, Emerald and Bob Mann creeks around the Monbulk township.

A BSAR group found foot ware of the missing person in Emerald Creek around 3 pm that day. The search concluded when the missing person was found 45 minutes later by another BSAR group.

Frank Zgoznic, Field Organiser



Frank briefing BSAR searchers.

Welcome to New BSAR Members

BSAR warmly welcomes the following new members:-

Jeff Aronson	BV
Rowena Christiansen	alpineSAR
Jane Frisken	VMTC
Dinny Kube	alpineSAR
Cam Macdonald	BV
Dan Trevena	alpineSAR
Joanna Waloszek	MUOC
Paul Whiting	alpineSAR
Reza Marzooghi	IBV
Robert Springer	MUMC
Imogen Stafford	MUMC
Riou Gaetan	MUMC
Phil Greenwood	MUMC
Roc Jones	MUMC
Lingshu Liu	MUMC
Peter Luk	ROC
Patrick Mills	MUMC
Dave Nicholls	MUOC
Travis Nisbet	MUOC
Clare Paynter	MUMC
Timo Stoffregen	MUOC
Rob Tomczyk	MUOC
Dylan Tweddle	BV

Grampians Search 27-28 September 2016

Police Liaison Officer Chris Jarvis conducted a callout on Monday evening 26 September, for a man missing in the Grampians. Police had located his car at Borough Huts and along with his family held grave fears for his welfare.

On Tuesday morning 21 BSAR members joined a large search based at Halls Gap, involving local Police, Search and Rescue Squad, Dog Squad, Mounted Branch, Solos and Airwing, along with SES and Parks Victoria staff.

Information regarding the missing man was limited. Over the 2 days BSAR members feature searched tracks and other routes out from Borough Huts

including over Mt William, line searched off the sides of walking tracks and carried out intensive line searching with a 500m radius of Borough Huts. Nothing was found.

The search was scaled down late Wednesday 28 September. Parks Victoria and SES staff had been withdrawn earlier in the day to rest and to prepare for an imminent major storm event.

Police Search and Rescue will review the searching done so far and along with local Police and Parks Victoria staff will continue to search the area.

Duncan Brookes, Field Organiser

2017 BSAR Training Weekend – 25-26 March

The 2017 training weekend will be on 25/26 March at Korweinguboora.

This will be in a bush setting, but utilising a country hall as our base.

The weekend will be devoted to several exercises. The purpose is to add SAR related skills to members' underlying bush skills.

Enrolment will open in the New Year and you will receive an email about that at the time. Meanwhile please mark this weekend in your diary.

If you are interested in assisting with the event in some capacity, please contact me.

*Rod Costigan
training@bsar.org*

BSAR Annual Training Weekend - 16-17 JULY 2016

The weekend of 16th and 17th July saw sixty BSAR personnel and candidates attend the Winter Training Practice at Dinner Plain. The weekend covered a series of workshops on Saturday followed by a practice search on Sunday for 4 missing persons. Workshops included training in hypothermia management, group leadership, GPS and compass training, use of BSAR radios, snow shelter preparation and night searching.



Testing a makeshift snow shelter



Patient management workshop

We were blessed with a good cover of snow and good weather. This let us put the equipment and training to good use.

It was great to see a large number of new recruits as well as many familiar faces from past searches. Attendance from the universities was very high and bodes well for the future

Frank Zgoznic, for the organizers



GPS Training in progress



Stretcher carry over snow

World Championship Rogaine 23 - 24 July 2016

In July, in the Eastern MacDonnell Ranges, based at the Ross River Resort some 90 km east of Alice Springs, the 14th World Rogaining Championships were held. There were approximately 700 competitors and 300 teams representing 18 nations. A big event for a sport invented in Melbourne, and for a very remote, but beautiful, part of our country. Some younger rogainers remarked that the Ross River campground was like a music festival in terms of atmosphere, but without the music, alcohol and drugs!

Following several very hot (winter) days, 30+C, the event weekend forecast was ideal. Saturday temps into low 20s and about 15C overnight with little wind. It was a relief not to have to carry extra clothes because overnight frost is common at that time of year.

The area for this event was in excess of 250 km sq. and the very detailed map, at a 1:25000 scale, was equally huge (approx 90cm x 60cm).

In the lead up to the event there was a warning to take extra tough shoes and leg protection to deal both with the spinifex and the very hard, abrasive, sharp and old (up to 2 billion years) rocks. This was sound advice which some participants ignored to their detriment. If you slipped on loose rock or tripped on one of the many hazards in the undergrowth, you had the choice of trying to break your fall by putting your hand into a clump of spinifex or falling onto some of the sharp and abrasive rock.

At the end of this event much time was spent contemplating how many weeks it would be before all the spinifex was removed from your legs, how your feet had survived the hours on loose rocky slopes or trudging along the sandy or boulder strewn creek beds, or how you managed to fight your way through some of the thicker scrubby sections of the map (thankfully,

there were not many). Sitting down in the warm sunshine waiting for the results, having eaten, drowsiness crept in and one wondered how you stayed awake all night.

And then to the results, announced in the different categories based on age with male, female and mixed in each of the Youth, Open, Veteran, Super Veteran and Ultra Veteran.

The event winners, two New Zealand adventure racers, accumulated 4400 points of the 6190 on the course and second place went to a mixed team from Victoria with 3900 points. These teams would have covered in excess of 120 km across some extremely rough terrain with many cliffs and dense spinifex.

Merv Trease and Vic Sedunary teamed up (as normal). They won the Men's Ultra Veterans (65+) section, accumulating 2430 points and covering a distance of about 74 km with nearly 2000 m of ascent. There were 13 teams in the category. Second place went to a team from Estonia. It was a hard day's work, but incredibly satisfying to win a World Championship.

The pain, suffering, prickles, tiredness, etc, etc will be forgotten in time, but the memories of a wonderful event and several weeks in Central Australia will live on. For Merv there was no rest as he immediately headed back to Victoria for the Cross Country skiing, 42 km Kangaroo Hoppet, a month later.

Merv Trease

Pictures next page.



Bush Navigation – Practice Makes Perfect

Every BSAR member is expected to be proficient in off-track bush navigation. The key to maintaining and improving this important practical skill is lots of regular practice.

Rogaining is a very effective and convenient way to practice and improve your navigation. Victorian Rogaining Association events are held monthly apart from the summer period and vary from 6 to 24 hours in duration.

The next VRA event is a 6 hour Rogaine on Saturday 12 Nov, repeated on Sunday 13 Nov at Enfield, south of Ballarat. As a bonus you will a) thoroughly enjoy yourself and b) bump in to other BSAR members who participate in numbers at every event. For more information see <http://vra.rogaine.asn.au/>

Every BSAR member should aim to do at least one Rogaine per year.

ASPIRING MEMBERS OF BSAR

BSAR does not provide basic navigation training. Our training events are designed for people who are at or near the skill levels expected for BSAR, which includes off-track navigation skills. Club Delegates take this into consideration when seeking new BSAR members.

Most Clubs, the Victorian Rogaining Association and Bushwalking Victoria run bush navigation courses from time to time.

However, many of us learnt to navigate by walking or Rogaining with an experienced friend and by making lots of mistakes and learning from them.

The basics are:

- Reading and interpreting a contour map, including scale, landform and features
- Relating the map to the ground
- Compass use: grid and magnetic bearings
- Orienting the map
- Being comfortable off track

“If you’re not making mistakes you are not getting out there enough.”

A GPS IS NOT THE ANSWER

A GPS is of course a very valuable tool in the outdoors in general and for our search and rescue activities in particular. But it may get lost, broken or have flat batteries.

A GPS is a handy navigational aid that can supplement but not replace map and compass navigation skills.

For additional information see:

- [BSAR Navigation Tips](#) (Thanks to Police Search and Rescue for this training material).
- [Practical navigation](#), Outdoor Leader Online

*Peter Campbell
BSAR Convener*

BSAR Standardises GPS Units and Setup

If a friend lent you their mobile phone, you wouldn't change the settings or the apps, would you?

And so it is with the BSAR GPS unit that you will now use on a search.

We now have 20 Oregon (touch screen) GPS available, thanks to Bushwalking Victoria and a Department of Justice VESEP grant.

Each unit is set up with a standard "BSAR profile" that best suits our needs. A single model with a standard setup greatly simplifies GPS training and usage for all members.



Please do not change the settings or the apps on our GPS.

You can prevent inadvertent screen changes, which can happen with the touch screen, by tapping the on/off to lock the touch screen. The unit appears to be off, but it isn't. Tapping the on/off button again turns the screen on again.

This "please don't fiddle with our GPS" request is somewhat contrary to our training on earlier GPS models where tweaking the settings was the go – this is no longer necessary.

If you are keen on playing around with GPS settings and the technicalities, we encourage you to buy your own. For those who do have their own Oregon unit, a copy of the BSAR profile will be available on the BSAR website for download into the Profiles folder on your unit.

*Roger Palmer
Equipment Officer*

Membership Secretary Needed

Our recent membership secretary, Jack De Vries, has had to step down from the role after three years. His work requires travelling and has made it quite hard for him to perform the role, so he receives our special thanks for all his efforts over that period.

That leaves us with a vacancy.

Our membership list serves all the usual purposes of any organisation's membership list, as well as providing the data that we upload to the State Control Centre callout system. We also use it to keep track of training and search attendances. Maintaining this involves a certain amount of email correspondence with club delegates and new members and a certain amount of data entry and online filing. Keeping a

clean, accurate set of records can be a satisfying role, if you are that kind of person, and it is gratifying to see callouts run smoothly as a result of your work.

If you might be interested in this role, you will need to have your own PC with Internet. You will need to have MS Access and MS Outlook on your PC or be happy to have them installed, along with two or three other minor applications.

If you are interested, please contact me via membershipsecretary@bsar.org.

*Rod Costigan
for BSAR Exec*

If undeliverable, please return to:
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